Detroit Jan 31. 1840

My very dear Brother

Your letter of Nov 26th was received on the 23rd instant having been mailed in New York on the 5th & New Haven on the 11th — It was truly acceptable like all its predecessors — but it is vexatious to have them so long on the way — & unnecessarily delayed too — Sister Nancy however apologized for it in this case by enumerating brother C— engagements &c — & promised that in future they should be despatched immediately — I hope this promise will not be broken — for I am ever anxious to get intelligence from my long absent friends as early possible — It gives me pleasure to hear that you are so agreeably situated — & are all in the enjoyment of good health. Sister Theresa, I doubt not, is far happier there, than she would be in this country — This I infer from the circumstances of the case — & because she never seemed to me quite satisfied & contented here. — Three years must make a very apparent change in Mary — & I suppose so great, that I shall scarce know her again — Eddy too — will be like one I have never seen — for in the child of near four years I shall hardly recognise the baby of ten months — whom I last saw as you held him above the side of the ship — How happy I shall be to see you all once more — but when I am to be thus gratified, I cannot divine from any thing you have yet written — I fancy however that the summer will come before you do — as you speak of losing nearly or quite the whole year —

I have nothing to communicate respecting myself of any moment — I am living as usual very contented with being in Michigan — for I am surrounded by every thing to make me comfortable & happy — a pleasant circle of friends within — & some agreeable people without if I choose to visit them — We live however very much retired from choice — for we have resources for happiness enough at home — & are not compelled to seek it abroad — Mr Romeyn has been absent with the exception of a week since I wrote last — He is now gone on business to Cleveland & will not return until next week — but we have Mr W— with us — to provide for & protect us — The children have perfect health — & are as full of life & spirits as it is possible for them to ~~[illegible]~~ be. The girls are totally unlike each other — Sophia among strangers, (if by chance she gets among them) is silent & timid — while Susan is all animation & prattle — though at home & alone they are equally wild & noisy — But Jamie is the pet — & the pride of the family — He is ten months old — & very forward in every respect — he is handsome with rosy cheeks & blue eyes — He promises to be quite a character — & now shows indications of energy & determination very like his Father — We hear very often from Helen — She has entirely recovered — & is in fine spirits — Her boy, "George Douglass", she thinks is equal to any other — He is said to resemble his Father & cannot therefore look much like Hannah W—. Sister Sophia does not like Buffalo, & is very impatient for the return of Spring that she may revisit Detroit — She feels more at home here — than there, because she has been longest here — her birds and flowers & all her objects are here — She thinks too, very much of these grand Children h20

I received a letter yesterday from sister Mary containing a favorable report of all our eastern friends — Brother Charles in addition to his other business has been writing a report of a trial of some Africans taken in a vessel in Conn waters — & this for the time, occupied him entirely — Cornelia's health is very good — & their little boy "William Edward" is represented as being larger & more quiet than any former child of theirs They seem very happy in the possession of this new treasure — & we fear they may idolise him too much — He is blue eyed — & is said to resemble his Father — The first Charles had also blue eyes — & he thinks this one is like him — I do hope he may be spared to them — for it must be such a comfort to his Mother to possess such a fine boy for his own sake — & then too the care of him must turn her mind in a measure from those she has loved & lost — I do not doubt that you will rejoice with them now in their joy — as you have formerly sympathised with them in their sorrow — George's family are all as usual — Harriet complains some — but she has less care, & gets along better —

I suppose you see American papers & I have therefore refrained from mentioning such events as you learn from them — But I cannot suffer the burning of the Lexington on the Sound to pass unnoticed although you may have heard of it previously — two hundred lives lost & among them Dr Follen — Who can estimate the horrors of such a situation — in a burning boat — without the shadow of hope — & the only alternative to burn or drown — Every paper brings some additional tidings though as so few escaped — but little more can be known — — — The weather in many parts of the country is said to be very cold but here we have had but few days of extreme severity — The river is open & closed again as often as every week — Here too the ground has scarcely been whitened with snow until within the last few days — whilst at the east & south it has fallen to an unparalleled extent — There has been good sleighing at Raleigh — & in Maryland the roads have been rendered impassable — About Northampton it is from two to four feet deep

Our amusements at home of late has been embroidering upon canvass with crewels — the fancy is that all our patterns come from Berlin — & I would ask if such a thing is practicable that you could bring some such as bunches of flowers for Ottomans — & also smaller ones either in wreaths — slipper or shoe patterns or any thing else — I do not know that you may be allowed to bring them — but if you may — I suppose you can get those that are handsomer than we can here

Mr & Mrs Whitney — with a reinforcement are to sail from Boston on their return to their field of labour at about this time — The health of Mrs W has very much improved —

With much love to sister Theresa & Mary & a kiss for Eddy

I am still your affectionate
sister Elizabeth

Anna sends love to all

E. R. Feb. 1. 1840
Rec^d Mar. 23.

Rev Edward Robinson D.D.
Berlin
Prussia